

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to recite the slab laser structure more explicitly as including two narrowly spaced electrodes having opposed planar surfaces and a rectangular discharge region defined between the opposed planar surfaces of the two narrowly spaced electrodes.

The claims stands rejected as anticipated by Brauer U.S. Patent No. 5,951,543, Murphy-Chutorian U.S. Patent No. 5,931,834 and Murphy-Chutorian U.S. Patent No. 5,993,443 . While these references recite CO2 electrodes, they do not disclose slab electrodes. In particular they do not disclose two narrowly spaced electrodes having opposed planar surfaces and a rectangular discharge region defined between the opposed planar surfaces of the two narrowly spaced electrodes.

Accordingly it is submitted that the claims are allowable

Applicant submits this complete reply to the rejection including cancellation of no-elected claims.

Enclosed is a \$465 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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William E. Booth  
William E. Booth  
Reg. No. 28,933

Fish & Richardson P.C.  
225 Franklin Street  
Boston, MA 02110-2804  
Telephone: (617) 542-5070  
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906